(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken to improve the. function" ing of the labour courts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M, ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) As per the information received frpm the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, there were 23,284 Industrial Disputes and 16,342 Applications pending upto February, 1997 in the Industrial Tribunals & Labour Courts set up by them. There are 5 vacancies of Presiding Officers, Labour Courts for which offer of appointments have since been issued. In the past, a few judicial officers to whom offer of appointments as Presiding Officer of Labour Courts were issued, had declined the same reportedly

asking for more facilities. A Presiding Officer of Industrial Tribunal and Labour Court is being provided facilities similar to the ones available to their counterparts in their parent cadre. The Government of India has also requested the state

Total pendency

(a) Chandigarh
(b) Jalandhar

2. The number of passports issued by Regional Passport- Office, Jalandhar dur ing the last three years is given below:

Name of office

Regional Passport Office,
Chandigarh

Passport Office, Jalandhar

3. The Standing Committee of Parlia ment for External Affairs has stated that apart from other reasons, there must be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area before a new Passport Office is to be opened. At present, in addition to the two Passport Offices at Chandigarh and Jalandhar, a Collection

Government of Delhi to look into the matter for initiating remedial measures,

Pending Passport ease* in Punjab

•478. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Passport Offices in Punjab as on the 31st March, 1997;

(b) the number of passports issued by the said offices during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to open new Passport Offices in Punjab keeping in view the increasing number of passport applications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE. MINISTRY OF LAW AND. JUSTICSp (SHRI RAMAKANt D. KHALAP): (a) to (e) The number of passport applications pending with the Passport Offices jn Punjab as pq the 31st March*. 1997 was:

pendency

over a month
6474 Nil
17309
6324

1994 1995 1996 95236
103257 98946

111002 106743 *95667*

Centre Is also functioning at Amritsqr. The Passport Office at Chandigarh has already been computerised and steps are under way to computerise the Passport office at Jalandhar. With this in view, there is no proposal to open any new Passport Office in Punjab.